

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2257

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEWT, EFIN, TECH, ESTC, NATO, XH
SUBJECT: ECONADS: REINFORCED MEETING ON EAST/WEST TRADE AND
TECHNOLOGY

REF: (A) USNATO 1432; (B) STATE 59181

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WASHINGTON PARTICIPANTS
IN THE MEETING (HEISS, BEWT; KOVACH, SER; SWARTZ, EUR/RPE;
AND WITTNER, DOD/ISA) HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED INFORMAL REPORTS
OF THE SESSION TO THEIR OFFICES. SUFFICE TO SAY THAT
THE MEETING WAS ONE OF THE LEAST INFORMATIVE AND LEAST PRODUC-
TIVE THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE HAS HELD FOR SOMETIME.

2. A NUMBER OF FACTORS PROBABLY CONTRIBUTED
TO THIS RESULT; A GRADUAL ACCRETION OF AGENDA THEMES
WHICH ROBBED THE MEETING OF FOCUS; LATE CIRCULATION OF
A DETAILED AGENDA, WHICH COMPLICATED NATIONAL PREPARATIONS
FOR THE MEETING AND SELECTION OF EXPERT REPRESENTATIVES;
POOR CONTROL AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS BY ECONADS
CHAIRMAN BILLY;
AND, PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, AN UNWILLINGNESS
OR INABILITY OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS
ASPECTS OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO THE EAST FROM SENSITIVE
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SECURITY, COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL STANDPOINTS. ALSO
SIGNIFICANT WAS THE NEAR ABSENCE OF PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED
DOCUMENTATION WHICH MIGHT HAVE SERVED AS BASES FOR DISCUSSION
OF THE VARIOUS AGENDA POINTS, AND THE CHAIRMAN'S FAILURE
TO EXOIT THE ONE DOCUMENT WHICH WAS ON THE TABLE,
OER'S "USSR: HARD CURRENCY TRADE AND PAYMENTS, 1977-78."

3. THER GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES (BAUFELD AND HOFFMANN)
SPOKE WITH ASSURANCE AND EVIDENT EXPERTISE. THE FORMER
REPORTED BRIEFLY ON A STUDY SHE HAD MADE OF 2,000

INSTANCES OF EAST/WEST TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION, BROADLY DEFINED. HER MAIN CONCLUSION WAS THAT THE SOVIET SIDE IN SUCH ARRANGEMENTS NORMALLY ENGAGES IN "ONE-TIME TRANSACTIONS" WHEREAS EASTERN EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS TYPICALLY ARE INTERESTED IN LONGER-TERM COOPERATION WITH WESTERN PARTIES. HOFFMANN COMMENTED ON EASTERN EUROPEAN, INCLUDING YUGOSLAV, TECHNOLOGY PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF THE USSR, ESPECIALLY IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH ADVANCED ELECTRONIC AREAS AS SOLID STATE DEVICES, INTEGRATED CIRCUITS, AND COMPUTER HARDWARE, INCLUDING MICROPROCESSORS. ATTEMPTS BY THE US REP TO DRAW HOFFMANN OUT FURTHER ON THE ISSUE PROVED UNABAILING. THE FRENCH EXPERT, GENERAL GONGRAIN CONTRASTED EAST-WEST "SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION" (INCLUDING THE EXCHANGE OF TRAINEE PERSONNEL) WITH WESTERN SALES OF WHOLE PLANTS ON A TURN-KEY BASIS. HE FELT THAT THE FORMER WAS "MORE DANGEROUS" TO WESTERN INTERESTS, BUT DID NOT PURSUE THE POINT.

4. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SEVERAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE COLLEAGUES THAT THEIR VISTING EXPERTS ALSO LEFT THE MEETING SORELY DISAPPOINTED. WE BELIEVE IT MAY BE USEFUL TO HOLD A PRIVATE MEETING OF ECONADS(WITHOUT THE DIRECTORATE PARTICIPATION) TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM FURTHER AND EXPLORE RECOMMENDATIONS WE MIGHT MAKE TO THE CHAIRMAN TO ASSURE THAT FUTURE MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS WILL BE MORE PROFITABLE. WASHINGTON COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE WELCOME. STRAUSS-HUPE
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